

RESOLUTION NO. 684

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke was born September 4, 1940 in Spokane, Washington and was raised in West Seattle; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke served his country for 26 years in the United States Navy and retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke was elected to the Washington State Senate in November 1990 and faithfully served the people of the 26th legislative district and the entire state of Washington for 16 years; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke served on the Senate Transportation Committee for the entire 16 years he was in the Washington State Senate; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke consistently displayed an objective, public interest view on controversial transportation issues and projects, and demonstrated unmatched dedication, determination, and leadership resulting in the construction of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the longest suspension bridge to be built in the United State since 1964; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke worked tirelessly to identify a solution for the state’s passenger only ferry service for the people of Southworth, Vashon Island, and Seattle; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke was guided every day of his life by his deep faith and his sense of honor to his country and his family; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke and his wife “Mrs. Oke” epitomized the meaning of love, strength, and commitment to family; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke will long be remembered for his love of life finding great joy and happiness in following the Mariners and experiencing the great northwest outdoors doing the things he loved including golfing, fishing, hunting and gardening; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke died on May 14, 2007 after a courageous three-year battle with multiple myeloma; and*

***WHEREAS,** Senator Robert Eugene Oke lived his life as a loving husband, a wise father, a kind grandfather, a gentle man, and a statesman and has left behind a legacy of grace, gentleness, determination and kindness;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Washington State Transportation Commission recognizes and honors Senator Robert Eugene Oke whose life was marked by his perseverance, servitude, and commitment to the State of Washington and its people.*

ADOPTED this 17th day of July 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RICHARD FORD, Chair

ELMIRA FORNER, Vice-Chair

ED BARNES, Member

ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

CAROL MOSER, Member

DAN O’NEAL, Member

DALE STEDMAN, Member

DOUGLAS B. MACDONALD
Ex –Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

JENNIFER ZIEGLER, Governor’s Designee

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Executive Director

Assistant Attorney General